33. Al-'Azim
(The Magnificent)

"The magnificence of Allah is such that when the heart truly perceives even a glimpse of it, all else becomes insignificant."

- Al-Bayazid al-Bistami (804-874 CE)
Source: Attar's "Tadhkirat al-Awliya"
(Memorial of the Saints)

The reciter of this Beautiful Name will be graced with honour and respect,
Insha Allah - Al Hisnul Hasin

BI'ISMIHI TA'AALA

Asmaa ul Husna

—

The Most Beautiful Names of Allah ﷻ

Ml.Moosa Kajee

AL-AZEEM ﷻ (THE MOST EXALTED AND MIGHTY ﷻ)

Al-Azeem ﷻ is that Being whose rank far exceeds the reach of one's intelligence. Encompassing His Being and Reality cannot even be imagined. Allaah ﷻ is the absolute Exalted and Supreme Being. He ﷻ is Mighty in His Being, Mighty in all of His ﷻ names, Mighty in all of His ﷻ qualities, Mighty in His hearing and seeing, Mighty in His power and strength and Mighty in His knowledge. To lessen His exaltedness and supremacy in anything is not permissible since this is passing decision in matters which Allaah ﷻ has not permitted.

Azimul-qaum (عظيم القوم) refers to the person in charge of a nation's matters. They do not have the power to stand against him or disobey his commands. However, even though he is such, weakness can overcome him which can weaken and sap him. Eventually others can stand against him and even vanquish and destroy him. On the contrary, Allaah ﷻ is All-Powerful, nothing can weaken Him, and His law cannot be broken or overturned by force or compulsion. Thus, He is Al-Azeem ﷻ in reality and truthfully. This name is only used for others metaphorically.

Al-Azeem ﷻ is that Being whose Being and qualities are the most exalted and mighty. He ﷻ is the Possessor of grandeur and greatness. His Being is greater than any other being, and His Qualities are far greater than the qualities of any of the creation. He ﷻ is Exalted and Mighty. The reasons for His exaltedness are countless. No human can ever enumerate them.

He ﷻ is that Being whose rank far exceeds the reach of anyone. Pondering over His exaltedness is impossible. His Grandeur and

Greatness is free from any time or place. Allaah ﷻ states in the Quraan Kareem:

وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ

And He is Lofty, Most Exalted.(Baqarah)

In this world, the power and grandeur of every person terminates, either by being displaced or by death. However, Allaah ﷻ's Being is always great. He ﷻ enjoys grandeur in every quality and condition. He ﷻ has power over everything. No one in any era or condition can ever render Him helpless. His law cannot be broken or overturned by force or compulsion. If we assume such a king, whose rulership extends over the entire world and he is a person of great awe and majesty, then when his kingdom comes to an end, his awe and respect also comes to an end. From this, we can understand that the awe and majesty was not due to his being, but due to some other factor, and that was the majesty and awe of the sultanate or kingdom. Thus, when this was removed, so too was his greatness and awe removed. Many such incidents are found in history that when the rulership of any kingdom was snatched away by the enemy, then the king or ruler became disgraced. They rotted in jail until they died with none to honour them.

In reality, the possessor of true grandeur and exaltedness is only Al-Azeem ﷻ. Besides Him, none else is fit for this title. The greatness and grandeur of others are all relative and unreal. However the grandeur and exaltedness of Allaahﷻ is such that whether the world remains in existence or not, there will not be any difference in it. He was Al-Azeem ﷻ before the creation of the universe and will remain Al-Azeem ﷻ after its destruction.

Al-Azeem ﷻ is that Being whose Exaltedness and Majesty is actual. He ﷻ does not become Exalted due to the praise of others. His rank is far

above any bounds or measurements. His grandeur and loftiness has neither beginning nor end.

Allaah ﷻ states,

مَا لَكُمْ لَا تَرْجُوْنَ لِلّٰهِ وَقَارًا

What is with you, that you do not fear the grandeur of Allaah ﷻ? (Nooh)

Ibn Abbaas ﷺ states in the commentary of this verse, "You cannot understand the right of His Greatness. From the Exaltedness and Majesty of Allaah ﷻ is that you do not equate any of His creation with Him in words e.g. I take an oath by Allaah and your life (here creation is joined to the name of Allaah ﷻ in respect), "For me there is no support besides Allaah ﷻ and you" "That will happen which Allaah ﷻ wants and you want", nor should you equate His creation with Him in love, respect, and obedience. "(Durrul-Manthoor)

In the universe created by Allaah ﷻ, in which more than billions of stars and uncountable galaxies are continuously in motion, there is perfect harmony and concordance. The stars, planets, and moons move around their orbits and within the galaxies which they are related to. For example, the earth moves at the speed of 1670km per hour around its orbit. If we keep in mind that the velocity of the fastest bullet is 1800km per hour, then we will understand how fast the earth is orbiting in spite of its huge mass. The earth moves around the sun at a speed 108,000 km per hour, approximately 60 times faster than a bullet. Around the Milky Way, it moves at a pace of 720,000 km per hour. The Milky Way itself, in which there are 700 billion stars moves at a pace of 950,000km per hour. Moving at such speeds, we are taught that our lives are also passing in this world as if on the edge of a knife. In general conditions, there is a possibility of accident occurring any time in this complex system.

Allaah ﷻ states,

الَّذِیْ خَلَقَ سَبْعَ سَمٰوٰتٍ طِبَاقًا ؕ مَا تَرٰی فِیْ خَلْقِ الرَّحْمٰنِ مِنْ تَفٰوُتٍ ؕ فَارْجِعِ الْبَصَرَ ۙ هَلْ تَرٰی مِنْ فُطُوْرٍ ۝ ثُمَّ ارْجِعِ الْبَصَرَ كَرَّتَیْنِ یَنْقَلِبْ اِلَیْكَ الْبَصَرُ خَاسِئًا وَّهُوَ حَسِیْرٌ

He is the Being who created the seven heavens in layers you will not find any disharmony in the creation of Ar-Rahmaan (the Most Merciful). Then look again, do you see any fissure? Continue looking, your gaze will return to you, unsuccessful and exhausted. (Mulk)

In this verse, Allaah ﷻ states that there is no disharmony or incoherence in this system. He ﷻ has not left, due to His mercy and kindness, the universe and all that is within it as it is, but all function with such system and regularity which Allaah has fixed and determined.

Man should ponder over his own creation. If any person saw a child being formed in the womb of its mother, then he cannot imagine that this child being manufactured in a dark enclosure will one day become a president, king or doctor. In the womb of the mother, the child cannot hear, see, or speak. However, when this same child emerges into the world, he forgets Allaah ﷻ. The body of a new-born baby or even a grown up person is made up of a trillion cells. These cells are in the form of bricks and can only be seen by a microscope. No building on earth, not even the highest industrial buildings are made from so many bricks. These trillion cells all come from one cell which was made when the sperm of the father mixed with the egg cell of the mother. The different organs of the body e.g. eyes, heart, nose, liver, brains, etc. are all manufactured from this one cell, but most astonishing is that they all perform their unique functions. Who has done all of this? This is through the power of Allaah ﷻ. An amazing matter which can be seen is that every limb of man's body has been prepared on its most suitable place e.g. if the eyes were on the feet, then seeing would have been difficult. All of these are clear proofs of the greatness of Al-Azeem ﷻ.